

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 7-10, 12-14, 18-25, 30 and 33-35 will be pending in this application. Claims 7-10, 12-14, 18-20, 25, 30, 33 and 35 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 15-17, 26-29 and 31-32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank Examiners Rowan and Poon for their helpful discussions regarding various issues. Applicants thank Examiner Rowan for the helpful facsimile of May 10, 2004 with amended claim 35 drawn to allowable subject matter. The pending claims have been made commensurate in scope to the allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 12, 20-22, 24, 26-28, 31, and 33-34 were rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Pfeiffer. To the extent the rejection is applicable to the amended set of claims, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended the claims to be commensurate with the allowable subject matter of amended claim 35. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection

Claims 1, 15-19, 20-21, 24, 26, 31, and 33-34 were rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Foster '985. To the extent the rejection is applicable to the amended set of claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended the claims to be commensurate with the allowable subject matter of amended claim 35. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 15-19, 25-27, 29, 31, and 33-35 were rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Foster '977. To the extent the rejection is applicable to the amended set of claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended the claims to be commensurate with the allowable subject matter of amended claim 35. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Claims 1, 12, 26-27, 31 and 33-34 were rejected as allegedly being obvious over Pfeiffer in view of Foster *et al.* '985. To the extent the rejection is applicable to the amended set of claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended the claims to be commensurate with the allowable subject matter of amended claim 35. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Claims 2-4, 7-10, 13-25, 28-30, 32 and 35 were rejected as allegedly being obvious over Pfeiffer in view of Foster '985. To the extent that the rejection is applicable to the amended set of claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

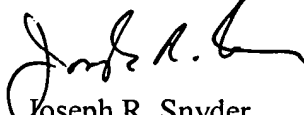
Applicants have amended the claims to be commensurate with the allowable subject matter of amended claim 35. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph R. Snyder
Reg. No. 39,381

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 925-472-5000
Fax: 415-576-0300
JS:jc
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